

**Central Falls School District  
Board of Trustees  
Minutes**

**April 08, 2008**

**I. Call to Order:**

**Chairperson, Mrs. Anna Cano-Morales called the Central Falls School District Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.**

**Present were: Ms. Anna Cano Morales- Chair Woman**

**Ms. Sonia Rodrigues – Vice Chair Woman**

**Ms. Mary Lou Perez, clerk**

**Mr. Vladimir Ibarra**

**Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado**

**Mr. David Cruise ----- Late: 6:12 p.m.**

**Not present - with excuse: Ms. Leslie Estrada**

**II. Pledge:**

**Mr. Larry DeCoste led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance**

### **III. Recognition:**

#### **a. Chess Champs:**

**The Central Falls Board of Trustees congratulated our Rhode Island Scholastic State Chess Tournament Champions! Calcutt Middle School earned first place, as well as the High School.**

**The following students from Calcutt Middle School and High School were awarded a certificate for “Achievement – 1st place – Rhode Island Scholastic State Championship 08”**

**Calcutt Middle School: High School:**

**Arnold Kozlowski Edward Dourant**

**Eeron Spencer Justin Centeno**

**Joshua Tolentino Boris Colindres**

**German Rodriguez Jason Medina**

**Johan Alvarez Anthony Torres**

**Savannah Cosme Franci Vilorio**

**Joshua Antaya**

**Jorge Echavarria**

**Cristian Estrada**

**Dylan Humphries**

**Mr. Frank DelBoines, chess coach, also congratulated his players for doing such a wonderful job.**

**b. Ella Risk – “ArtReach” Imagine Performance (Cirque Dreams) Production.**

**The Central Falls Board of Trustees awarded a certificate to the “ArtReach” Imagine Performance Production to the following:**

**Louriann Mardo-Zayat, Art Teacher.**

**Colleen Schiavone, Music Teacher.**

**Steven Thulier, PE.**

**Cheryl Degnan, Librarian.**

**Christine Robinson, Health.**

**Ms. Cano-Morales attended the ArtReach performance and mentioned that she was impressed by the art work and the way they presented it to the public was effective in transmitting the planning, the teaching, and the learning in visual arts.**

**c. The Central Falls Board of Trustees presented Dr. Gallo with a basket of goodies in recognition of her one-year anniversary as School Superintendent.**

#### **IV. Policy and Planning:**

**a. Allan Shawn Feinstein School Informational Presentation.**

**Ms. Maureen Azar presented a video of her students to the Board of Trustees. This video showed students attending class and doing numerous activities, specially working the new Science Kits that Dr. Gallo brought to the district.**

**b. Residency Policy Updates by Pat Morris**

**Ms. Morris mentioned that the only difference in 5.1.1 of the residency policy requirement is that the district will not accept a driver’s license as a proof of residency. The other new part of the residency policy is**

that the school needs to notify parents if there is a dispute with residency. Ms. Morris said that the district received a letter dated October 10, 2007 from Mr. David Abbott, Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel from RIDE where it says, that if the district claims that parents or families do not live in the district, these parents or families may appeal the decision directly in English or Spanish to the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. Ms. Morris also mentioned that there is a form included with Residency Policy that home owners or renters can fill out to establish legal residence in Central Falls for the purpose of children attending school in the Central Falls School District.

For the non-resident pupils there is page that includes the sections that were crossed out

because they were part of the general law but not part of district's policy. This part of the

policy includes the following: Non-resident pupils will be accepted in district schools only when

adequate classroom space is available and placement will not work to the detriment of local

pupils.

2. No choice of school building or teacher by parents will be permitted. All pupils accepted will

be assigned to specific classes and locations by the superintendent's office according to space available.

3. All parents and/or legal guardians will be expected to assume

**responsibility for paying**

**tuition to the school department on a monthly basis. This tuition will be equal to the amount of**

**the previous school year's per pupil costs for Central Falls as determined by the R. I. State**

**Education Department.**

**4. All non-resident pupils must perform according to standards as prescribed on an acceptable**

**basis in order to be retained in the school system.**

**5. Pupils upon reaching their 18th birthday will be considered legal adults and may therefore**

**determine their own place of residency for educational purposes.**

**6. A transfer of guardianship connected with determining residency for minors for educational**

**purposes will only be considered when -a. a petition is submitted, legally processed and an**

**award granted by the R. I. family court. b. an affidavit is submitted properly processed and**

**executed by the parents or legal guardians transferring custody to a bona fide resident of Central**

**Falls.**

**7. Senior pupils (12th Grade) in good standing, completing their final year of high school, will**

**be given special consideration by the School Committee upon receipt of a written request; from**

the parents or legal guardians asking that the pupil be allowed to complete the school year and the opportunity to graduate with his or her class. With approval, no tuition will be required in such cases.

8. The School Department reserves the right to accept or reject all non-resident pupils based on the above provisions as stated.

Teachers and members of Local 1627 who are not residents of Central Falls shall be allowed to enroll their children in the Central Falls School District tuition free provided:

- there is space for the child in a classroom without causing the class to exceed the class size maximum;
- the child is not placed in the parent's classroom;
- the parent pays all costs of programs or services that exceed the District's average per pupil instructional cost;
- the District shall not be responsible for transporting the child to or from school.

All requests must be approved by the superintendent in writing prior to registration.

c. Request for approval from Frank DelBoines, Chess Team, trip to Atlanta:

Included in the Board of Trustees packet, there were some informational material regarding chess in education, chess in the classroom, and ten tips to winning chess. The Board thanked Mr.

**DelBoines for sending this information out to them. One of the comments from the Board was that they learned a lot from this material. Mr. DelBoines asked the Board for permission to go to the Atlanta nationals next Wednesday, April 16, 2008. All the academic requirements have been submitted to Hedley, Mr. DelBoines said. There will be 11 students attending the Atlanta Nationals. All of the Board of Trustees agreed for this trip to take place.**

**V. Consent Agenda:**

**Ms. Cano-Morales asked for a motion to approve the minutes of March 11, 2008 as well as, routine personnel action, resignations, rescissions and other routine matters.**

**Mr. David Cruise made a motion to approve the minutes of March 11, 2008, routine personnel action, resignations, rescissions and routine matters. The motion was second by**

**Ms. Sonia Rodrigues and unanimously approved by the Board 6-0.**

**Ms. Cano-Morales brought to the Board's attention that Ms. Denise DeBarros has accepted the position of Coordinator for Family, Community and School Partnership. Members of the interview committee were Ms. Giovanna Venditti, Ms. Lynn Nunn, Ms. Kathy Gaouette and Mr. Ron DiOrio. Ms. DeBarros has been employed by the Central Falls School District for the past 9-1/2 years. Initially she was hired and served as a Home School Liaison for 6-1/2 years.**

**Currently she is a School Secretary at Calcutt Middle School. Ms. DeBarros told the Board that she is very happy to accept this position and that she will do her best on her new role.**

## **VI. Superintendent's Report:**

### **a. Kids in Canyon:**

**Dr. Gallo just wanted the Board to know that all the paperwork for the trip to the Grand Canyon has been documented even the background checks of the individuals that are from out of state. Dr. Gallo also mentioned that included in the packet was the initial request to Scope where it describes the activity in detail, what will be the end product, and goals.**

### **b. Safe Routes to Schools:**

**Central Falls School District was awarded funding under the Safe Routes to School Program were specifically involves Ella Risk and Veterans. On May 20, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. there will be a training/workshop conducted by the members of the RI Department of Administration Statewide Planning Programs and representatives of the National Safe Routes to School from Washington, D.C. at the Channel One-Ralph J. Holden Community Center.**

### **c. Safety Survey Report:**

**This was coordinated by Mr. Mario Papitto and the State Police. During the month of January 08, the assessment team from the**



**Rhode Island State police conducted an Intruder/Unlawful person(s) incidents assessment of the eight school facilities in the Central Falls School System. The purpose of the report is to give the district a snapshot of where the school is currently at in terms of safety, focusing on Intruder/Unlawful Person(s) Incidents. Dr. Gallo told the Board that the District is taking their suggestions and recommendations seriously.**

**One question from the Board was: who will pay for any facility improvements to the schools?**

**Dr. Gallo said that when the District makes any facility improvements most of the costs get reimbursed.**

**Dr. Gallo also mentioned to the Board that they have been invited to a Symposium on Urban Education Presentation on April 22 and April 23 and they are asked to present the high school work on proficiency based graduation requirements.**

**Dr. Gallo told the Board that recently she received a request for transportation which she can not met. Dr. Gallo has spoken to the Mayor about it and he understands. The District was asked to transport a pre-scholar to St. Cecilia's. Dr. Gallo explained that the district does not transport pre-scholars on a regular school bus with other students. The district has preschool classes which by law they operate for those children with special needs. The district does not offer day care transportation to our families.**

**Finally, Dr. Gallo thanked the Board members for the basket she**

received and said that she is very happy working in Central Falls; she appreciates the staff that she works with. Dr. Gallo also said that the administrators are phenomenal and that they have grown as a team, they have also developed a strong strategic plan, and partnered ship with University of Rhode Island. Dr. Gallo said that as district progresses, we will see many positive changes.

## **VII. Public Comments:**

**Al Cardona, Assistant City Solicitor, comment on Budget.**

His comment was about the Mayor's perception of the number of students in the school district. Mr. Cardona has attended numerous meetings regarding the situation in the city and as he explained, right now the city has over 100 homes that are boarded up; most of them are three family homes. Mr. Cardona said that it is a valid concern that the city has. Also, there are a lot of empty apartments; people are constantly contacting the city telling them that they can not make their mortgage payments because they can not rent the apartments that they have. Mr. Cardona said that this is where the question comes from, the perception that people are not living in the city. Mr. Cardona said that back in 1991 there were 3700 kids in the school district; from records that Mr. Cardona got from the Department of Education, there are approximately 3400 kids in the school district today. The district's budget back then was 12 million dollars; today that budget is approximately 48 million; there were 300 employees at the school district back in 1991 and today there are 618 employees; that is not a perception Mr. Cardona said. He also mentioned that

Central Falls has a charter school that is presently educating 400-600 students, and from the Mayor's perspective it is a concern not a perception, it is a reality. Where are these kids coming from? He asked... Mr. Cardona said that he is very concern about the budget; again he said that he got the figures from the Department of Education and mentioned to the Board that the Administration at the high school gets about 1/2" million dollars just for administrators. The high school has one principal, three assistants, a special assistant to the principal also named as coordinator of ESL and a PBGR coordinator. Mr. Cardona said that there is a lot of money being spent at the high school and also said that one of the assistant principals who were demoted last year kept the same salary as if he was still a principal. Mr. Cardona said that as a tax payer it concerns him that the perception of demotion is that if you are demoted you will get less responsibilities and therefore a person should get less pay. Mr. Cardona said that the city is concern about this and is willing to work with the community as the Mayor always has, but when the district comes to the city and said that they need help with the budget and the city sees that the district has four times the school budget, twice the staff and less students since 1991, this does not up for the city, Mr. Cardona said.

Mrs. Cano-Morales said that the Board did not have any comments at this point, but said that the Board will speak to the Superintendent and the Mayor about these concerns.

Mr. Frank DelBoines told the Board that the money for the Atlanta trip

**came from him and that the chess players are doing fund raisers. Mr. DelBoines made it clear that no money came out from SCOPE.**

#### **VIII. Next Board Meeting:**

**Next Board meeting will be held on May 13, 2008.**

#### **IX. School Board Comment/Communications:**

**There were no comments or communications from the Board.**

#### **X. Executive Session pursuant to chapter 42-46-5 (a) 1 and 2 of the RI General Laws (Personnel Matters) (Litigation).**

**Ms. Cano-Morales asked for a motion to move into Executive Session under the RI General Laws 42-46-5 (a) (1), that this body convenes in executive session to discuss the job performance of certain employees. These persons have been notified in writing that the public body intends to convene in executive session to discuss his or her job performance and he or she has declined to have this discussion take place in open session. Ms. Cano-Morales further move, under the RI General Laws 42-46-5 (a) 92) that this public body convene in executive session to discuss certain matters are the subject of collective bargaining and litigation, and to conduct work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining and litigation.**

**The motion was moved by Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado, seconded by Ms.**

**Sonia Rodrigues and unanimously approved by the Board 6-0.**

**A Roll call was taken.**

**XI. Adjournment:**

**Public Session was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.**